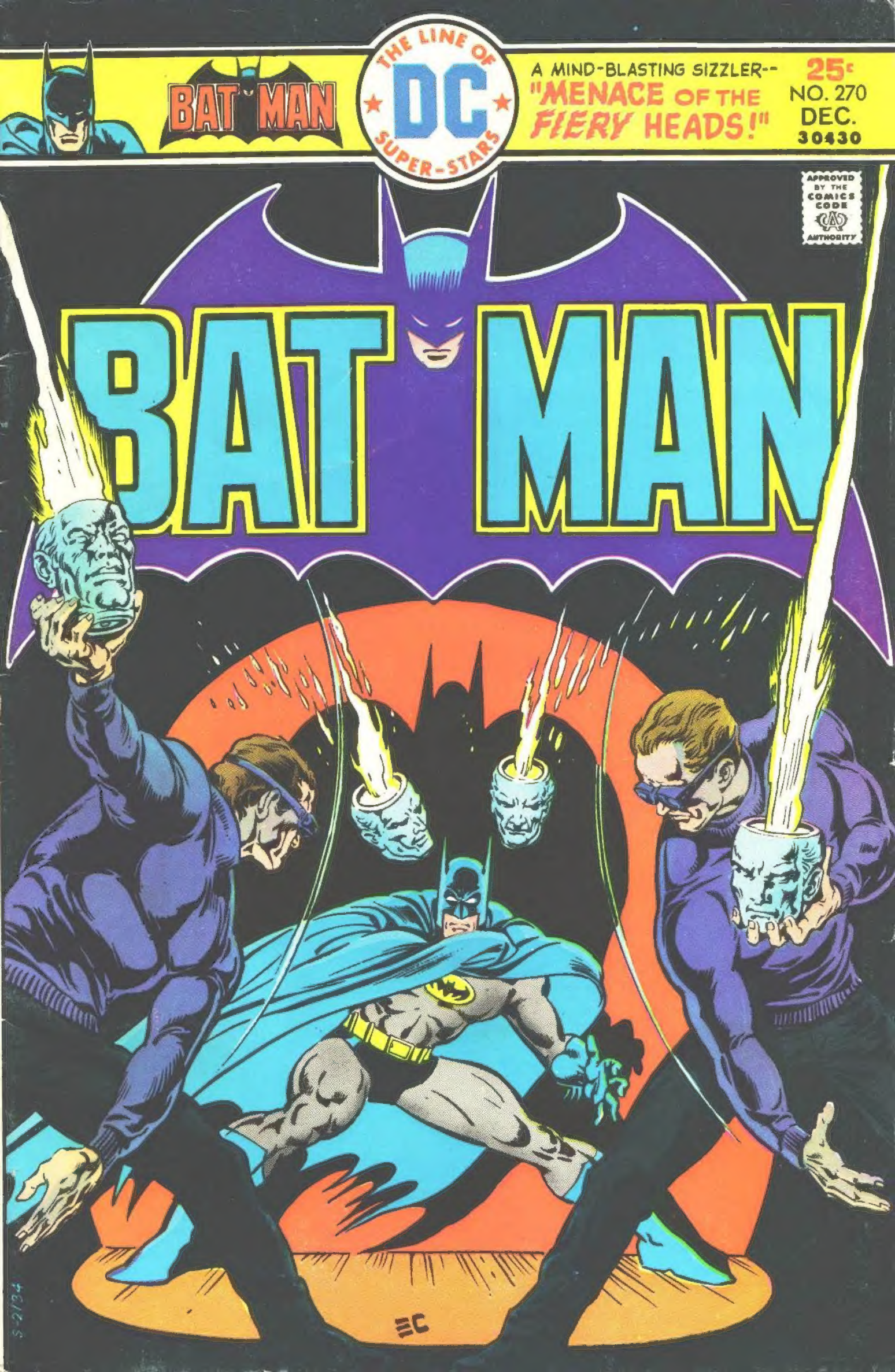
BAT MAN
THE LINE OF
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A MIND-BLASTING SIZZLER--
"MENACE OF THE FIERY HEADS!"
25¢
NO. 270
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30430
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
EC

BATMAN AND THE CAPTIVE COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE 3 SVENGALI BROTHERS, UNDERWORLD FIGURES. WITHOUT ITS COMMISSIONER, *GOTHAM CITY* IS IN *TOTAL CHAOS*.

ROBIN, UNTIL COMMISSIONER GORDON IS FREED, THIS CITY IS IN TROUBLE.

NOT JUST TROUBLE, *BATMAN*, *REAL, DEEP, BIG* TROUBLE!

YOU TWO GUYS GOTTA MAKE A DEAL WITH *THE BATMAN*. EITHER WE RUN THIS TOWN, OR NOBODY'LL EVER SEE THE COMMISSIONER AGAIN.

WE'LL "PERSUADE" *THE BATMAN*...

...TO "TALK THINGS OVER."

DON'T TRY NUTHIN, *BATMAN*! THIS CAR IS COMPUTERIZED TO TAKE YOU TO OUR HIDEOUT, NO MATTER *WHAT* YOU DO!

IN THAT CASE, LET'S ENJOY SOME SNACKS!

HEY! THIS IS TERRIFIC! *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*! I'LL TAKE CHERRY!

APPLE FOR ME!

BATMAN, YOU'RE O.K. THIS HAS **REAL FRUIT FILLING**.

AND A **TENDER** CRUST YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE!

GLAD YOU ENJOYED *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*!

AND AS EVERYONE KNOWS...

...A LITTLE NAP AFTER A MEAL HELPS!

THWACK

THOCK

THEM DUMB BROTHERS OF MINE LET ME DOWN. LEMME OUTA HERE...

UHH

BOMP

LET'S SAY I HAD A LITTLE BIT OF HELP FROM *HOSTESS*!

BATMAN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

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ADD THE
BATMAN
AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT--?
THE MENACE OF THE FIERY HEADS!
Story By: DAVID V. REED
Art By: ERNIE CHUA
Edited By: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
S 2001

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AN EVENING AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
...WHERE THE WELL-KNOWN SOCIALITE AND PHILANTHROPIST PLAYS HOST TO GOTHAM CITY'S CIVIC COMMITTEE...
...AND MR. WAYNE HAS VERY GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEERED TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF ENTERTAINMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S YOUTH DIVISION...
...FOR WHICH I MOST HEARTILY THANK HIM!

THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR, FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ME!
I PROMISE TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM--

SUDDENLY--
HELP! HELP!
IT'S COMING FROM THE APARTMENT DIRECTLY BELOW!
AND NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT WITHOUT WRECKING BRUCE WAYNE'S REPUTATION AS A NONCOMBATANT!

HELP!
BRUCE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ABLE-BODIED MAN HERE!
BLAST IT--DO SOMETHING!
TRAPPED!-- COMMISSIONER GORDON'S FORCING ME INTO ACTION!
ANYBODY WOULD BE SHAMED--DISGRACED-- NOT TO RESPOND...
...EVEN BRUCE WAYNE!

I-I-I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, COMMISSIONER!

THAT INTENSE LIGHT--WHAT CAN IT BE?
EH? THE SCREAMS HAVE STOPPED!
HERE--
--GOES!
OH MY GOD! THERE'S A DEAD BODY--
SOMETHING MOVING BEHIND THE SCREEN--?
BETTER CHECK IT OUT...
3

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

ALL THE ACTION STARTS WITH A PULL OF THE T-STICK (NO BATTERIES)
WATCH DAREDEVIL DAN CATCH THE THRILL BAR AND SPIN!
SEE THE MUSTANG II DO A WILD POWER SPIN-OUT!
SET STUNT WHEEL...PULL T-STICK
SCREEEEE!
SSP
Tournament of Thrills
FEATURING DAREDEVIL DAN
1 BIG SET GIVES YOU ALL THESE DEATH DEFYING WILD-ACTION STUNTS!
ALL THE ACTION OF THE REAL AUTO DAREDEVILS!
DAREDEVIL DAN CATCHES THE THRILL BAR FROM ATOP A SPEEDING CAR!
THE MUSTANG II CRASHES INTO THE WALL AS DARE-DEVIL DAN LEAPS FOR LIFE!
WHAM!
"DRAGGING" WITH ALL THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF THE REAL PROS!
SET INCLUDES:
MUSTANG II MODEL
DAREDEVIL DAN
HOOK
THRILL BAR
JUMP RAMP
BARRELS
T-STICK
SSP Tournament of Thrills WILD POWER SPIN-OUTS
Kenner
SEE IT NOW--AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE!

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You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.

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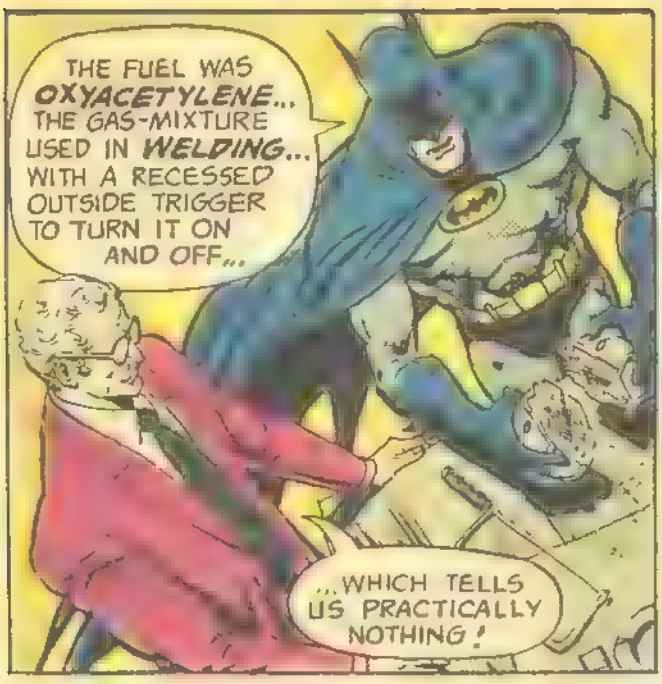
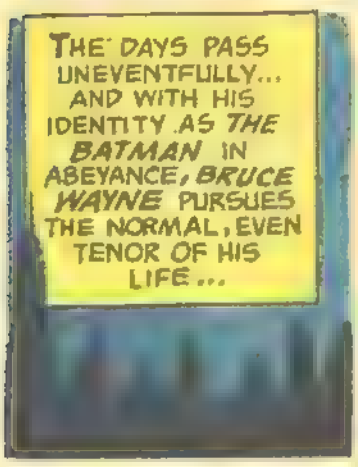
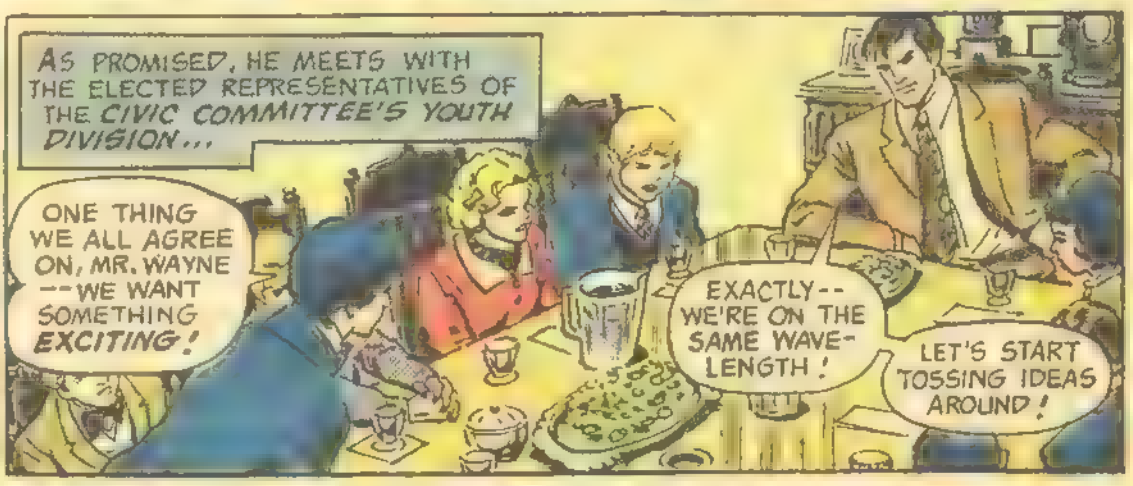
THERE HE GOES!
AND IF I DON'T ROLL THESE FLAMES OUT, THERE GOES BRUCE WAYNE!
MOMENTS LATER--
BRUCE, YOU ALL RIGHT?
WELL... INTACT, ANYWAY, COMMISSIONER!
WHAT HAPPENED?
GET SOME LIGHTS ON AND TAKE A LOOK!
SMOTHER THAT BURNING HEAD!
HOW--?
BURY IT IN THAT PLANTER!
THEN, AS THE LIGHTS COME ON--
GREAT HEAVENS-- IT'S JIM STANDISH, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY!
HE'S BEEN STRANGLED!
QUICKLY, BRUCE GIVES THE COMMISSIONER THE FEW DETAILS OF HIS SAVAGE ENCOUNTER...
NO CRITICISM OF YOU, BRUCE... YOU PERFORMED NOBLY! IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE NOT--
OH, IF ONLY THE BATMAN HAD BEEN HERE!
WHY AM I WASTING TIME?
I'LL GET THE BATMAN ON THE HOT-LINE!
I KNEW IT!
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, COMMISSIONER, I'LL GO BACK UPSTAIRS, TAKE AN ASPIRIN AND LIE DOWN A WHILE...

THIRTY-SECONDS LATER--
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...I FEEL VERY WEAK...
COMMISSIONER GORDON WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...
THE HOT-LINE IS RINGING FOR BATMAN--BUT MASTER BRUCE IS WITH THE COMMISSIONER, SO HE'S SURELY AWARE OF THIS!
SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST'VE HAPPENED DOWNSTAIRS!
R-R-RING!
R-R-RING
M-MASTER BRUCE--YOU LOOK--
R-R-RING
I KNOW HOW I LOOK, ALFRED!
GET MY WORKING CLOTHES OUT!
YES, COMMISSIONER, WHAT'S UP?
A MURDER, PERHAPS--SOMETHING ON THE WEIRD SIDE?
GAD! IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE BATMAN KNOWS!
AND WITHIN MOMENTS, THE CAPED CRUSADER REPORTS FOR DUTY!...
...AND THIS IS HOW WE FOUND HIM...
...AND BRUCE WAYNE TOLD YOU THIS HEAD--THIS LIKENESS OF STANDISH--WAS BLAZING WITH FIRE WHEN HE GOT HERE?
LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!


THE FUEL WAS OXYACETYLENE... THE GAS-MIXTURE USED IN WELDING... WITH A RECESSED OUTSIDE TRIGGER TO TURN IT ON AND OFF...
...WHICH TELLS US PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY WONDER WHETHER THIS IS AN ISOLATED KILLING-- BIZARRE AND MEANINGLESS AS IT IS--
--OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE MORE!
BATMAN... I'M AFRAID WE'RE ON A DEATH-WATCH!


THE DAYS PASS UNEVENTFULLY... AND WITH HIS IDENTITY AS THE BATMAN IN ABEYANCE, BRUCE WAYNE PURSUES THE NORMAL, EVEN TENOR OF HIS LIFE...


AS PROMISED, HE MEETS WITH THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE'S YOUTH DIVISION...
ONE THING WE ALL AGREE ON, MR. WAYNE --WE WANT SOMETHING EXCITING!
EXACTLY-- WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH!
LET'S START TOSSING IDEAS AROUND!

WELL, FOR ONE THING, WE COULD INVITE--
OH-NO--WHAT TIMING! THE BAT-BEEPER... SOUNDING IN MY POCKET!

I-I'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE THIS--I'M VERY SORRY!
WH-A-A-AT?
IS HE FOR REAL?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAT'S THAT, COMMISSIONER?... HOW LONG AGO?
ALL RIGHT, DON'T SEND ANYONE... I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF!

MINUTES LATER, THE BATMOBILE RACES THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM ...
FROM WHAT GORDON SAYS, IT MUST BE THE SAME ONE!
BUT WHY DID THE "HEAD-KILLER" GIVE ADVANCE WARNING THIS TIME?
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT--THAT'S THE SAME OXYACETYLENE LIGHT!
OTHERWISE, AN OMINOUS QUIET...
THERE IT IS--AND THE HEAD IS UNMISTAKABLY THAT OF JUDGE BROMLEY!
HELLO! ANYBODY HOME?
BATMAN! I WAS EXPECTING THE POLICE--BUT THANK GOD IT'S YOU!
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CONFOUNDED BLAZE? IT'S BLINDING ME!
THERE, JUDGE BROMLEY--OUT!
NOW TELL ME...
PSSSS
CLICK
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL! ABOUT AN HOUR AGO--I WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM--WHEN SUDDENLY THAT INSANE LIGHT ERUPTED IN HERE!
I TOOK ONE LOOK AT THAT HEAD AND CALLED GORDON!
I REMEMBERED READING ABOUT THAT OTHER FIERY HEAD WHEN THE ASSISTANT D.A. WAS MURDERED LAST WEEK!
WHAT'S THIS--PARALLEL FURROWS IN THE CARPET... LEADING TO A WALL...?
TELL ME, YOUR HONOR--DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWN ENEMIES?
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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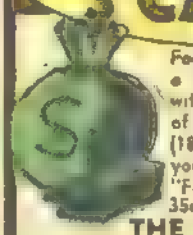

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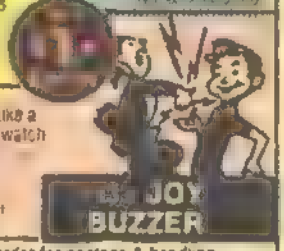

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EVERY JUDGE MAKES ENEMIES, BATMAN-- BUT I'M RETIRED NOW AND I LEAD A VERY QUIET LIFE--
...THEY'RE TRACK-MARKS!...
...AS THOUGH SOMEBODY HAD BEEN DRAGGED ACROSS THE ROOM!
I SEE YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT THE CARPET--
PERHAPS MY SECRETARY CAN EXPLAIN--I'LL RING FOR HIM!
SECRETARY?-- GORDON SAID THE JUDGE LIVED HERE ALONE!
KRAK
CLOSE!
I'VE HEARD OF BEING SAVED BY A BELL--BUT NOT OF BEING KILLED BY ONE!
CR-A-A-A-SH
JUDGING BY YOUR ACTIONS, BROMLEY-- EITHER YOU'RE NO JUDGE...
...OR I'M NO JUDGE OF JUDGES!
CORRECT, BATMAN!
--AND NOW FOR YOUR JUDGMENT ON THIS FINE TOLEDO STEEL!

TORO!
A SPANISH MOVE FOR A SPANISH BLADE!
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE BANDERILLAS FOR THIS!
--BUT I'LL BET IT FEELS LIKE THEM!
CHOK
AND NOW-- AMERICAN STYLE-- A LITTLE PLASTIC SURGERY--
--WITH MY FIST!
SOCK!
YOU KNOW WHAT?-- YOU'RE LOSING FACE!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE MORE BEFORE I'M THROUGH!
THOK

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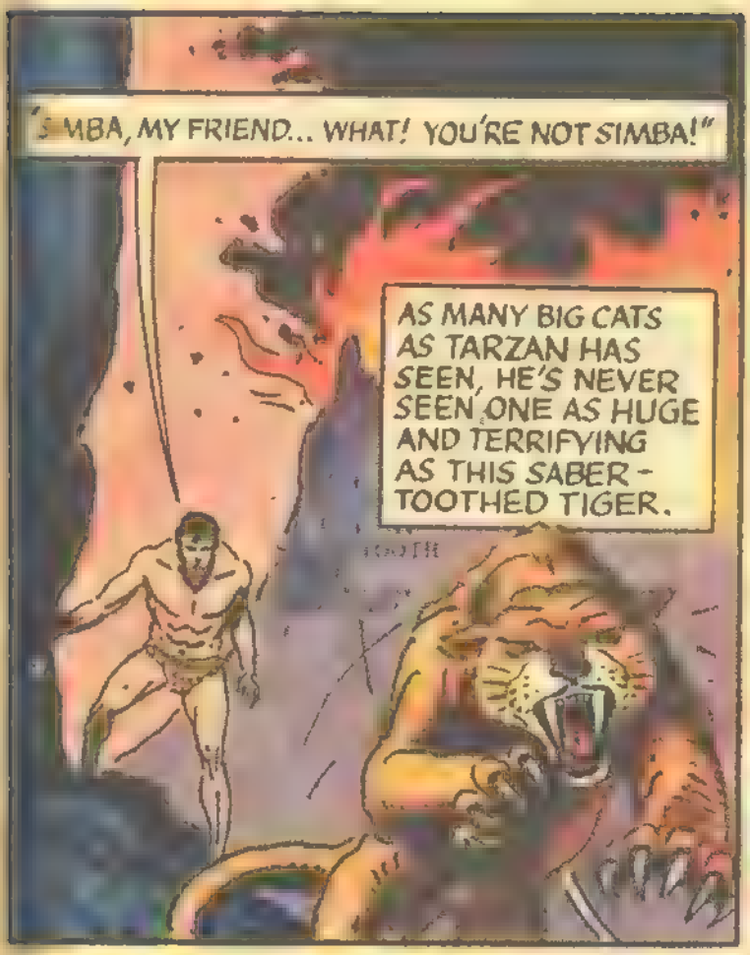
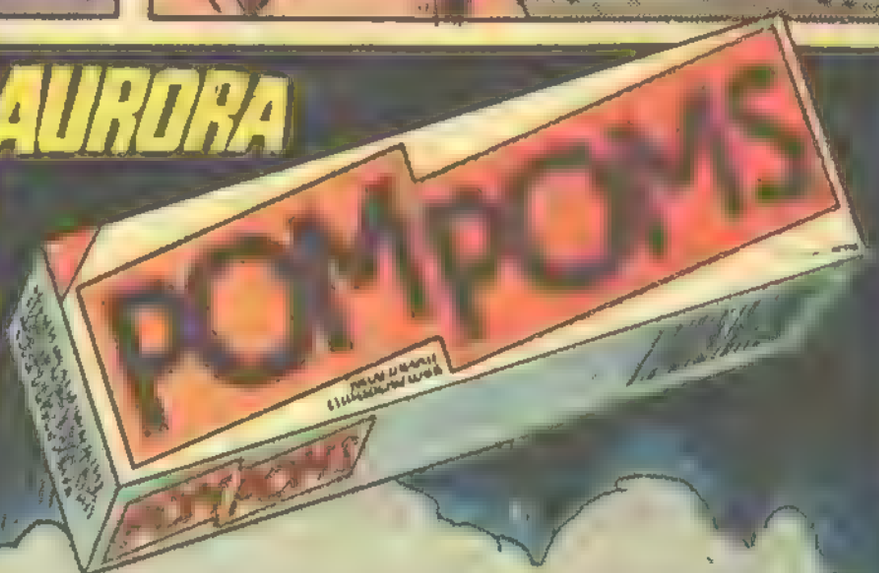
Tarzan
DISCOVERS THE LAND OF THE PREHISTORIC ANIMALS
JOE KUBERT
WALKING THROUGH THE JUNGLE TARZAN FALLS THROUGH A TIME-HOLE. HE AWAKENS TO FIND HIMSELF IN ANOTHER WORLD.
TARZAN HAS NEVER SEEN SUCH FRIGHTENING CREATURES.
WHEN HE FELL THROUGH THE TIME-HOLE, TARZAN FELL INTO THE LAND OF THE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS. THE LAND OF THE BIGGEST, STRONGEST ANIMALS THAT EVER WALKED THE EARTH. THE TRICERATOPS... PTERODACTYL... SPIKED DINOSAUR... AND THE FIERCEST CREATURE OF ALL TIME, THE TYRANNOSAURUS REX!


"SIMBA, MY FRIEND... WHAT! YOU'RE NOT SIMBA!"
AS MANY BIG CATS AS TARZAN HAS SEEN, HE'S NEVER SEEN ONE AS HUGE AND TERRIFYING AS THIS SABER-TOOTHED TIGER.

GET YOUR OWN AURORA PREHISTORIC MONSTERS



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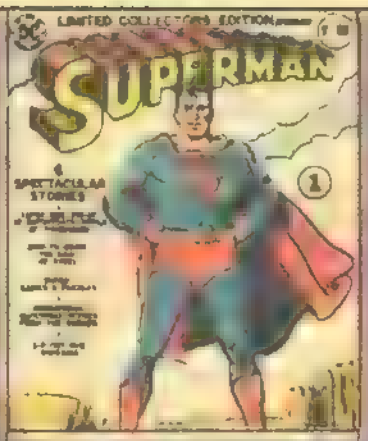
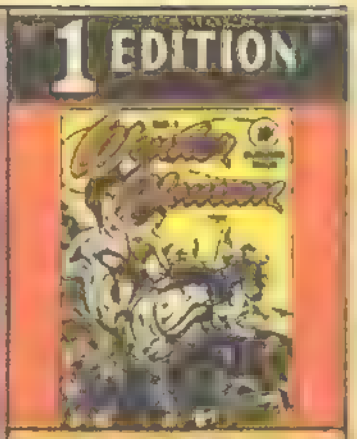
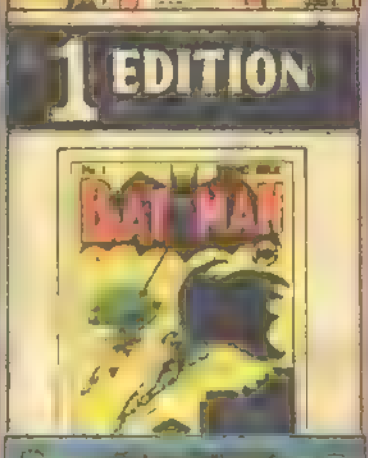
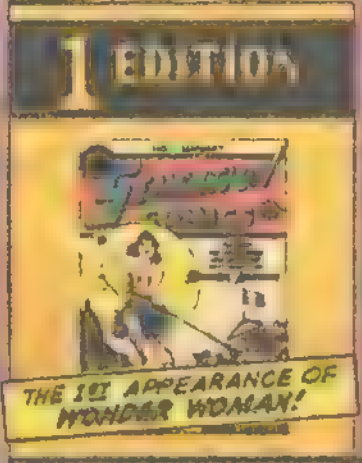
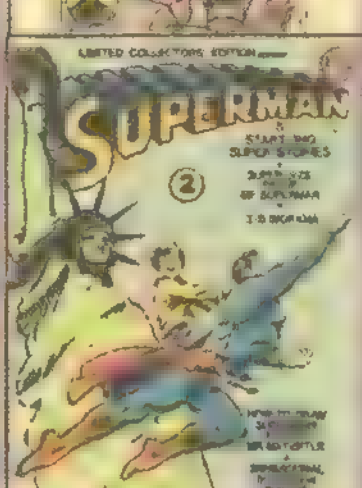
TARZAN FINDS HIS WAY BACK THROUGH THE TIME-HOLE. HE'S GRATEFUL TO BE BACK IN THE WORLD OF ORDINARY MONSTERS.











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WHA--A SECRET DOOR!
'BYE, BATMAN!
SENTENCE SUSPENDED!
FRANTICALLY, THE BATMAN'S QUICK HANDS FIND THE HIDDEN LOCK AND HE FOLLOWS--BUT PRECIOUS MOMENTS HAVE BEEN LOST!...

A HIDDEN STAIRWELL--LEADING DOWN TO THE CELLAR!
BUT IN THE CELLAR, ONLY A GRISLY SCENE AWAITS--
JUDGE BROMLEY... THE REAL JUDGE BROMLEY!
HE WAS DEAD LONG BEFORE I GOT HERE!
THE KILLER STRANGLED BROMLEY UPSTAIRS, THEN DRAGGED HIS BODY DOWN HERE--
--TELEPHONED GORDON...AND WAITED FOR ME WITH THAT PERFECT DISGUISE!
FIRST, AN ASSISTANT D.A.--NOW A JUDGE--AND MAYBE EVEN ME!
BUT WHY--? SOME SORT OF MANIACAL REVENGE?
REVENGE FOR WHOM?... FOR WHAT?

SOME DAYS LATER, THE C.C.Y.D. MEETS AGAIN... THIS TIME AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
AS I WAS SAYING THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED MYSELF, WE'RE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS!
WELL, MR. WAYNE, WE'VE COME TO A DECISION--
...WHEN-- ONCE AGAIN!--
BEG PARDON, MASTER BRUCE-- BUT YOU HAVE A MOST URGENT CALL--
EXCUSE ME! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
BUT THEN--
AHEM... ON BEHALF OF MR. WAYNE, MAY I CONVEY HIS MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES!
HE WAS UNAVOIDABLY CALLED AWAY ON A MOST PRESSING MATTER...
WHAT A DRAG!
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
PHOOOEY!
AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER--
"NOW WHAT, COMMISSIONER?
THAT'S WHAT-- WITH YOUR NAME ON IT--LEFT DOWNSTAIRS BY SOMEBODY!
I HAD THE BOMB SQUAD SOUND IT, SO IT'S NOT THAT-- BUT I DON'T LIKE THE 'LOOKS--
SUDDENLY, AN ERUPTING INTERRUPTION!
WHAT--
SWISH
LOOKS LIKE THE FIERY HEAD WENT OFF PREMATURELY!
--OR DID IT?
I'M GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT TURNING THESE OFF--
--THERE!
IT'S... ME--!
YOU ARE SLATED TO BE THE NEXT VICTIM!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE

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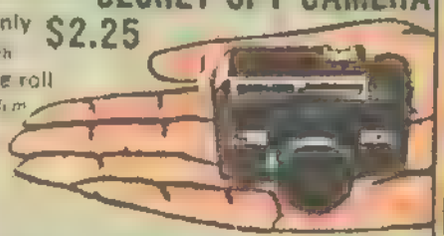

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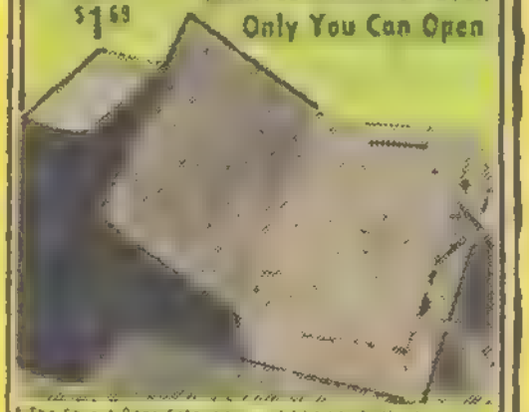

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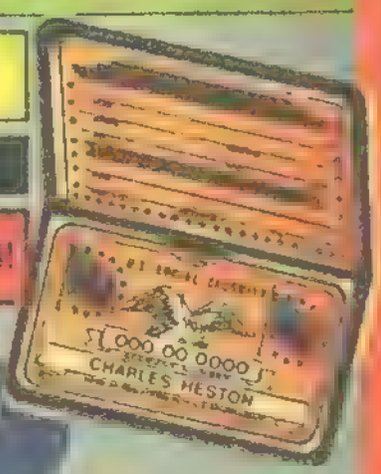

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THE BATTLE-FIELDS OF WORLD WAR TWO--SEEN THROUGH ENEMY EYES!

ON SALE OCT. 14TH

WAR IN A LOST LAND OF MONSTERS!

DC

THE GODS AT WAR--WITH EARTH THE PRIZE!

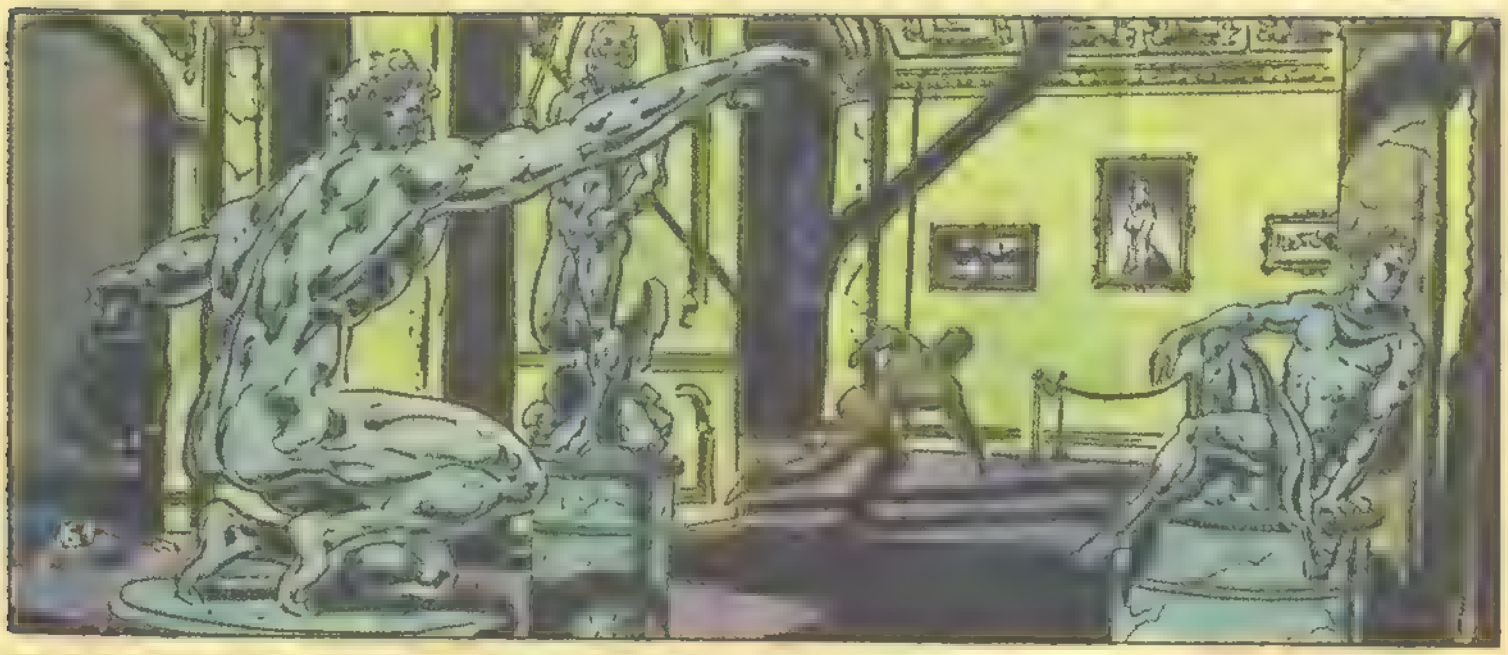
ON SALE OCT. 16TH

ON SALE SEPT. 30TH

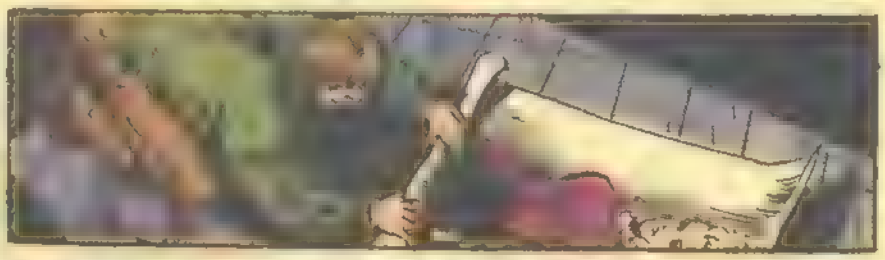
WHY ME? WHAT DID STANDISH, BROMLEY AND I HAVE IN COMMON?
SURE, WE WERE INVOLVED IN CASES TOGETHER THROUGH THE YEARS... BUT FAR TOO MANY TO SINGLE OUT ONE OF THEM!
R-RING
WHAT?-- REPEAT THAT SLOWLY... OKAY!
BATMAN, THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER HEAD-MURDER!
SOMEBODY NAMED PETERSON, ON MADISON AND 68TH!
THE "MISSING LINK"? THIS JUST MIGHT CRACK IT!
THEN, WITHIN HALF AN HOUR--
HERE'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER!
FIVE YEARS AGO, EARL PETERSON WAS THE FOREMAN OF A JURY IN A CASE PROSECUTED BY STANDISH--IN JUDGE BROMLEY'S COURT--
--AND I WAS THE ONE WHO NAILED THE DEFENDANT!
AND WHO WAS THAT DEFENDANT?
BLINKY JOHNSON --A CRAFTSMAN SAFE-CRACKER, ACCOMPLISHED IN THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES AND OXYACETYLENE!
BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL IN PRISON!
I'LL CHECK IT!
THREE MINUTES LATER--
JOHNSON WAS PAROLED LAST MONTH!
BLAST IT, WHY WEREN'T WE INFORMED?
THEY CHANGED THE SYSTEM UPSTATE, SIR, AND IT'S BEEN TAKING MUCH LONGER...
WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW!
WRONG, COMMISSIONER!-- I'LL FIND HIM!
EVEN IF HE'S ON THE MOON-- I'LL FIND HIM!

BUT; AN HOUR AFTER THE BATMAN HAS ALERTED HIS SOURCES IN THE UNDERGROUND GRAPEVINE--
BLINKY'S DROPPED OUTA SIGHT! FOXEY SAM MIGHT KNOW WHERE, BUT HE AIN'T ONE OF US!
NO?... I THINK I'LL TELL HIM ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP!
SOON--
SPILL, SAM!
YOU KNOW ME BETTER!
Y-YOU WON'T G-GIVE M-ME AWAY?
THE OLD AJAX BREWERY.. THE GENERATOR ROOM...
THEN, ON THE ROOF OF THE BREWERY...
AJAX BEER
THE PRIDE OF GOTHAM

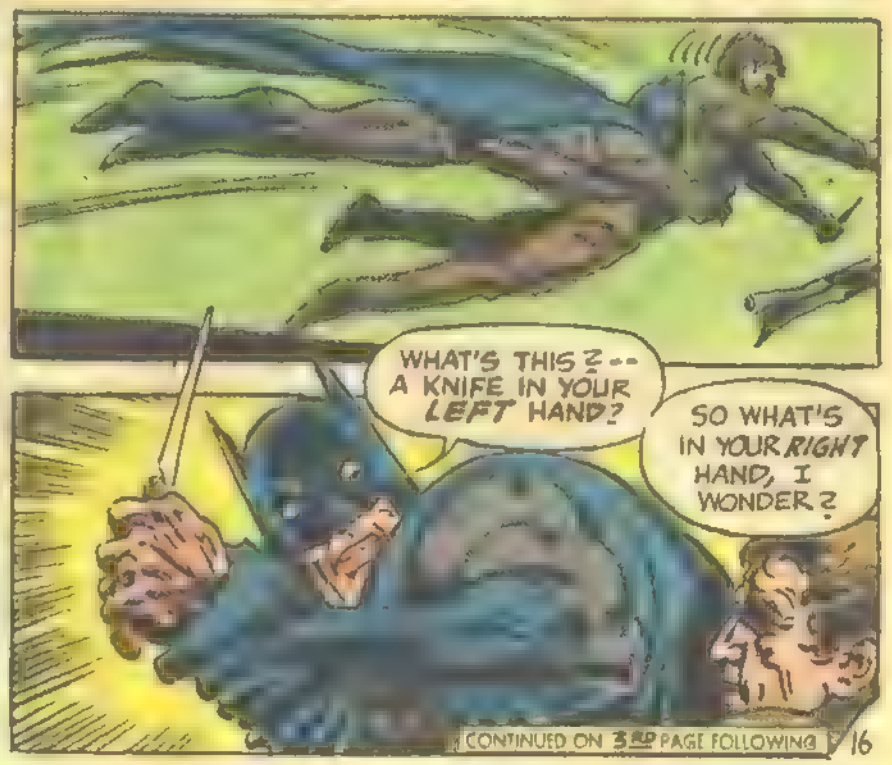
KRONK
Y-YOU CAN'T G-GET AWAY WITH THIS, B-BATMAN!
I AIN'T DONE NOTHIN'!
YEAH, BLINKY--YOU'RE NOT THE MAN I WANT!
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE LEFT-HANDED!
BUT WHAT MADE YOU HOLE UP HERE?
I GOT TIPPED YESTERDAY YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR ME--OUT TO FRAME ME!
ME--FRAME YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? EVERY DETAIL FITTED PERFECTLY--THE COURT CASE--THE OXYACETYLENE... THE JAIL-RELEASE DATE...
MEANWHILE, FAR ACROSS GOTHAM...IN AN ART MUSEUM ON THE FASHIONABLE UPPER EAST SIDE...
WE'RE FINALLY CLOSED! WHAT A DAY--WE CLOCKED OVER 7,000 ADMISSIONS JUST TO SEE THE REMBRANDT!
WELL, WHY NOT? TOMORROW IT GOES BACK TO AMSTERDAM!
GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ART
TIME TO START MAKING ROUNDS! YOU'RE ON DUTY HERE TILL BERGSTROM RELIEVES YOU!



AHH! IN A FEW MINUTES YOU'LL BE MINE! THE WHOLE MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF YOU!



BATMAN!?
AND HARRY WATKINS... OF COURSE!
WE MEET-- AGAIN!


WHAT'S THIS?-- A KNIFE IN YOUR LEFT HAND?
SO WHAT'S IN YOUR RIGHT HAND, I WONDER?
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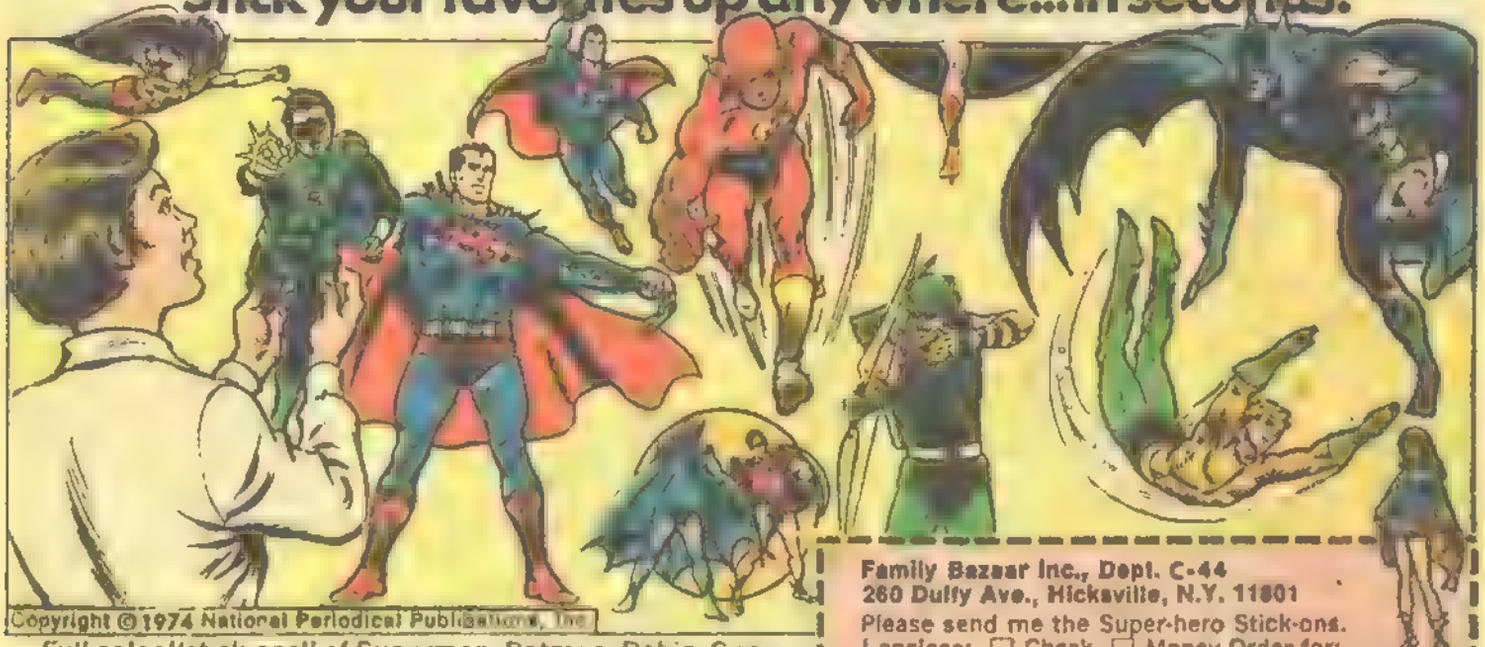
Stick your favorites up anywhere...in seconds!



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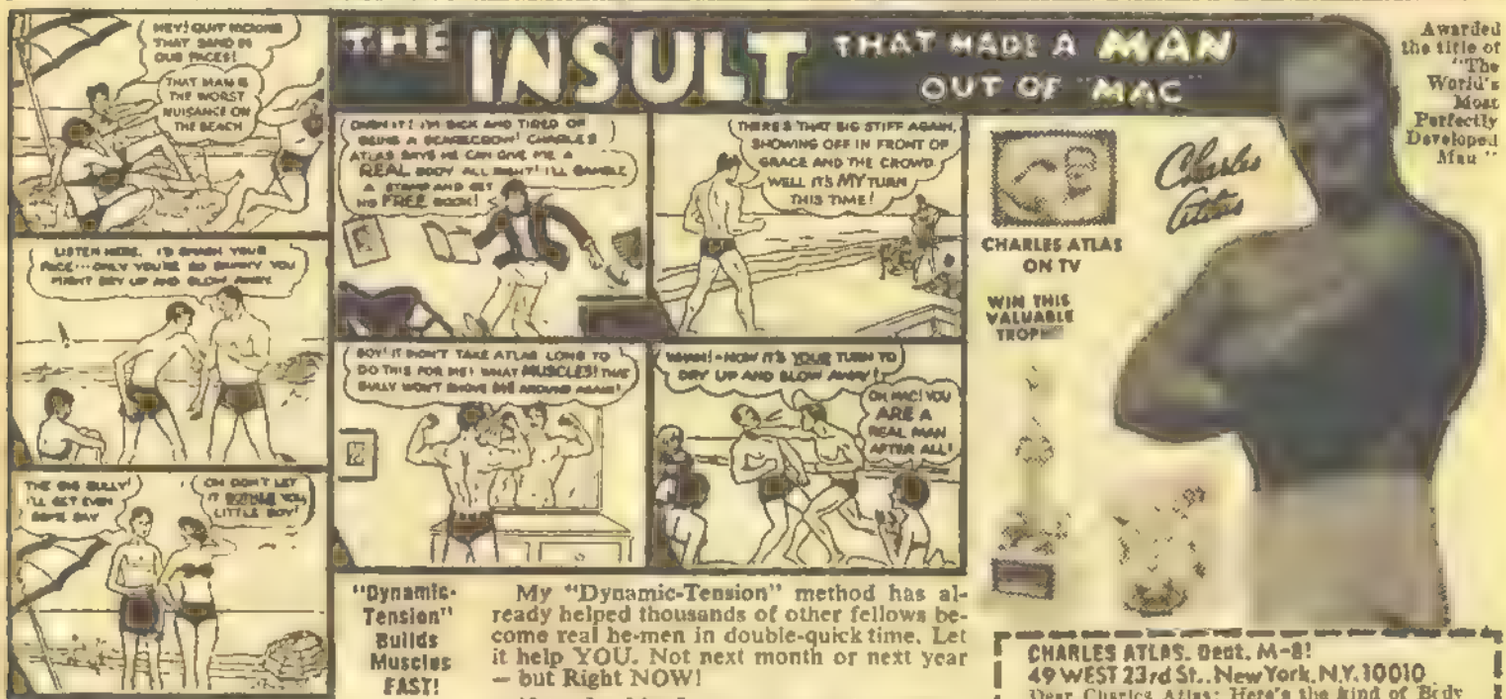
THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF "MAC"
HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES! THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE... ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY.
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET MY FREE BOOK!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
BOY! IT DON'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T BOTHER ME AROUND HERE AGAIN!
WOW! - NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!
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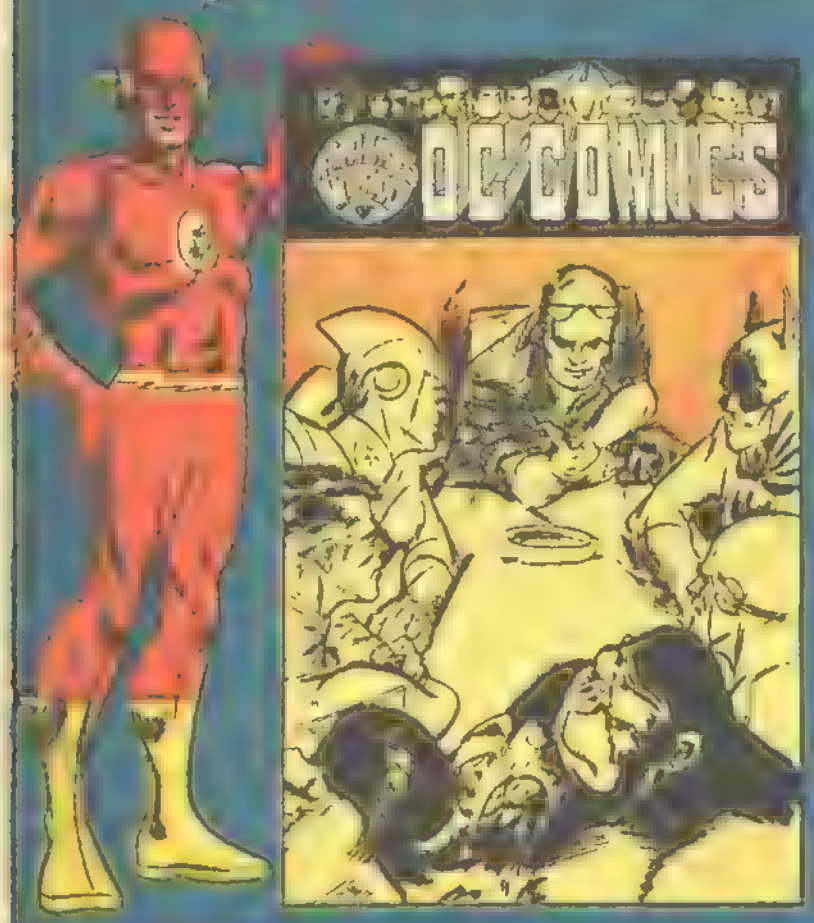

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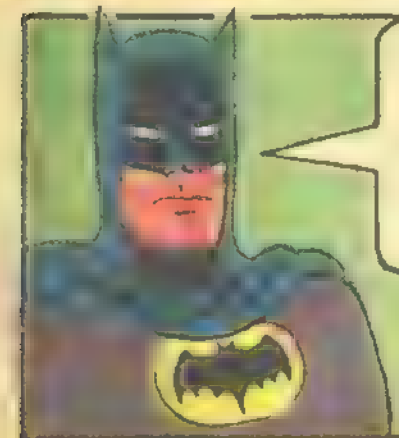

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OOOFFF!
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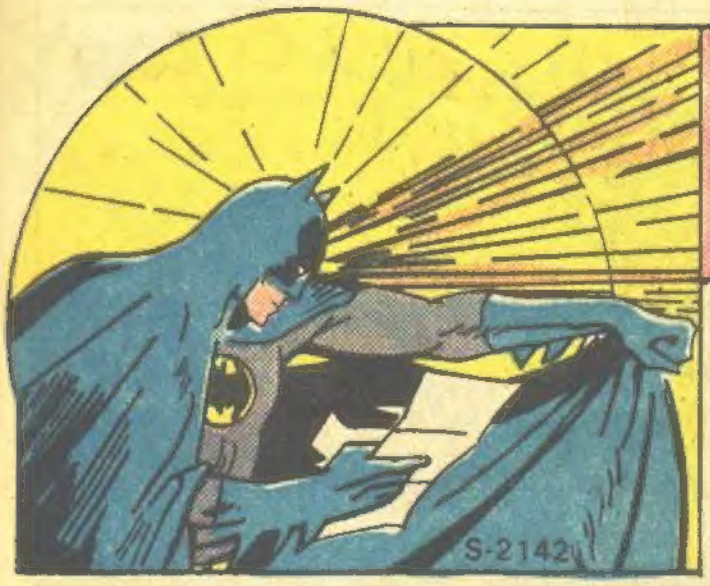
--WILL CANCEL YOU!
POW
UNNHHH!
NO!-- NO!
STRANGLED... WITH HIS NECK BROKEN--
--HIS SPECIALTY TO THE END!

LATER--
...AND WHEN I REALIZED BLINKY WASN'T OUR MAN, COMMISSIONER, I FIGURED THE REAL KILLER MUST'VE KNOWN BLINKY'S WHOLE HISTORY!
WHO?--WHY NOT BLINKY'S CELLMATE--WHO TURNED OUT TO BE HARRY WATKINS--ART-THIEF AND HOBBYIST SCULPTOR!
ALTHOUGH WE DIDN'T KNOW HE'D BEEN PAROLED THE SAME TIME AS BLINKY--HARRY WATKINS THOUGHT WE KNEW HE WAS OUT...
...AND THAT I'D BE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON HIM, ESPECIALLY WITH THE REMBRANDT IN TOWN!
WATKINS' SERIES OF FALSE CLUES--TO STANDISH, THE JUDGE, THEN ME AND FINALLY THE JURY FOREMAN--WERE CALCULATED TO HAVE ME OUT HUNTING BLINKY--
--PRECISELY WHEN WATKINS WAS DOING HIS THING AT THE MUSEUM!
AS IT WAS, I BARELY GOT THERE IN TIME TO NAB--
R-R-RINGGG
BLAST THAT PHONE!--WHAT NOW?
WHAT?!--BRUCE WAYNE LEFT THE YOUTH DIVISION IN THE LURCH?
LISTEN... IF YOU THINK THAT'S ALL I HAVE ON MY MIND...
HOLD IT, COMMISSIONER! I FEEL I OWE BRUCE WAYNE SOMETHING FOR HIS PART IN THIS!
TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO--
AND SO, THE YOUTH DIVISION FINALLY HAD ITS DAY... A RAP SESSION WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE--
--THE BATMAN! WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE
AND MR. WAYNE HAS ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT NEXT WEEK'S GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE JOE NAMATH!
HOORAY FOR NAMATH!
WAYNE, TOO!
AND ESPECIALLY THE BATMAN!
END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Julie and Bob,

Denny O'Neil is the best writer in comics! No one pulls together all the elements it takes to make a successful story as well as he does.

"The Curious Case of the Catwoman's Coincidences" in **BATMAN #266** is the perfect example. First, Denny sets up for two themes which will run through the story. He introduces the mystery of the gypsy woman, a perfect tag to the "man-of-the-night" imagery he develops so well for **Batman**. Also, he tells us of the incredible coincidences which will confront Bruce (**Batman**) Wayne as the story progresses.

Sprinkle the story with plenty of two-fisted, **Batman**-style action, add a popular arch foe in her old familiar costume to delight the readers, and then toss in a couple of surprises. **Catwoman** didn't want to escape—she had planned to go straight! And that cat didn't really play bloodhound—it was merely following the trail of catnip.

See what I mean? All the elements you could ask for in a story are there! But you don't have to ask for them . . . which is why Denny is such a great author.

FRED SCHNEIDER, New York, N.Y.

(Denny's Catwoman tale not only delighted regular readers, it even won us some new ones! Witness the following missive!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

This letter comes to you from a man who has rediscovered **Batman** at age 21—after six years. A couple of days ago, I noticed **BATMAN #266** and could not resist the temptation to buy it. Believe me, I was glad I did!

This was **The Batman** I wanted to see back when I gave up comics. The art was superb, the story (despite the proliferation of coincidences) was realistic and well-done, and **Catwoman** was more beautiful and devious than ever. I was glad to see **Batman** fighting criminals without the excessive **Bat**-paraphernalia and ridiculous puns that characterized the TV show-influenced Caped Crusader. Here was no costumed clown, but rather a determined, clever and fear-invoking crimefighter.

With this masterpiece, you've won back a regular reader!

MARVIN JASON, Lynchburg, Va.

(While it was the characterization of THE BATMAN which most impressed you, Marvin, it was that of the Catwoman which sparked most reader reaction! Ladies and gentlemen, you have the floor . . . !—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Julie, Bob and Company,

Bravo! The return of **Catwoman** . . . I believe. But I could be wrong. I mean, **Catwoman** is such a full, deep character—a real woman. She has these great psychological hang-ups which intrigue us: she loves crime but hates killing; she rejects men but yearns to be in **Batman**'s arms; she wants to lord over men but wants **Batman** to master her. (I think she'd be quite disappointed if she defeated old **Bats** for good!)

But the **Catwoman** in **BATMAN #266** didn't seem to carry this psychology within her. She was flat, lifeless. She tried—a one page run-in with her henchmen where she scratches his pawing paw—but that just doesn't convince me. The return of **Catwoman** in her old costume was great but remember that clothes do not make the cat. She was one of DC's most fascinating characters. Don't let her become just another pretty costume!

GREG POTTER, Hartford, Ct.

. . . . Yaaaay!! **Catwoman**'s back! And in her best costume!

For once, she was handled well. Her position of being not really a villainous criminal was amply shown, but it's very precarious. You barely revealed enough of her vicious side which must exist for her to be a criminal at all.

TERRI KAY MARTIN, Lonoke, Ark.

. . . . **Catwoman** is finally a legitimate foe for **Batman**! She was elusive, cunning and mysterious, not to mention breathtakingly beautiful. I hope you will flare up the romance between **Batman** and **Catwoman** since she is so extremely attractive. I mean, when it comes to girls, isn't **Batman** human?

DAVID BOSNICH, Cheswick, Pa.

(You'll be seeing more and more of his very human reactions to girls as BATMAN and as BRUCE WAYNE in the future. Just keep reading this magazine and DETECTIVE COMICS!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

About your coincidence-oriented story in BATMAN #266: I was reading it while watching television and during the backgammon scene there was a game manufacturer's commercial for just that item. Then, as I read about the train wreck, on came the opening sequence of "The Fugitive"! **Coincidence?** Hard to believe?

ADAM CASTRO, New Rochelle, N.Y.

(No, Adam, we'd only find it hard to believe if you said a cat came through the window and stole the magazine when you got up to change channels!—Bob Rozakis)

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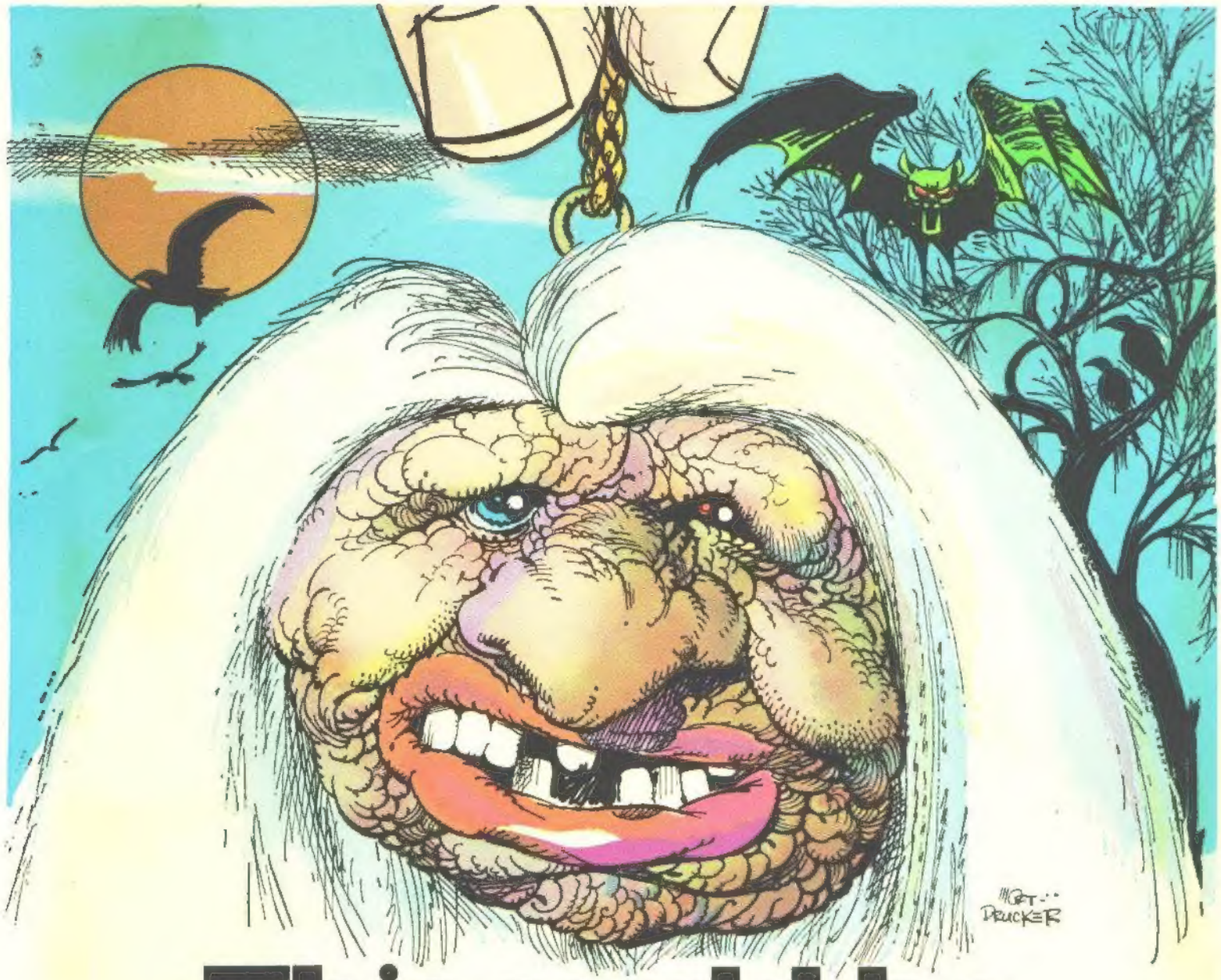

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